

the money is short and your temper is short because you're worrying about the money, and the kids have problems at school and you have problems at school. You just want to crawl off somewhere. But you can't."

"I DO THINK I'M BREAKING THE CYCLE"

At school, Christian said, she talks about her kids constantly. At home, she talks about school. Better yet, her kids see her hunkering down with a book, and it makes them want to do the same. When they complain that they don't like a teacher, Christian says, guess what, she doesn't like all her professors either. Then they all do their homework together.

"So I do think I'm breaking the cycle," Christian said. "It feels great."

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, June 6, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,669,404,114,473.96, five trillion, six hundred sixty-nine billion, four hundred four million, one hundred fourteen thousand, four hundred seventy-three dollars and ninety-six cents.

One year ago, June 6, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,647,514,000,000, five trillion, six hundred forty-seven billion, five hundred fourteen million.

Five years ago, June 6, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,139,284,000,000, five trillion, one hundred thirty-nine billion, two hundred eighty-four million.

Ten years ago, June 6, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,494,333,000,000, three trillion, four hundred ninety-four billion, three hundred thirty-three million.

Fifteen years ago, June 6, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,052,917,000,000, two trillion, fifty-two billion, nine hundred seventeen million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,616,487,114,473.96, three trillion, six hundred sixteen billion, four hundred eighty-seven million, one hundred fourteen thousand, four hundred seventy-three dollars and ninety-six cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

POLSON HIGH SCHOOL "WE THE PEOPLE" GROUP

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, on April 21–23, 2001 more than 1200 students from across the country came to Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program." I am proud to announce that one of the classes that competed was from Polson High School in Polson, MT.

The students that participated are: Curt Bertsch, Luke Bradshaw, Brad Briney, Amy Herak, Jackie Johnson, Ray Kneeland, Mindy Koopmans, Maggie Liebschutz, Tim Mains, Levi Mazurek, Ashley Miedinger, Joey Moholt, Cuinn Morgen, Nolan Mobray, Toby Nelson, Kevin O'Brien, Kati O'Toole, Becky Owen, Stephen Pitts, Jeri Rafter, Kate Tiskus, Luke Venters, and Jason Wies.

I would also like to recognize, their teacher, Bob Hislop. Bob brings students to the national competition almost every year; his efforts have been a major asset to Polson High School and the State of Montana.

For the students involved, the national competition was the culmination of months spent studying the Constitution. It lasted three days, and was modeled after a Congressional hearing. Students were the "witnesses," and they made oral presentations before a panel of judges—the "committee." Afterwards, the judges asked questions designed to probe each competitor's knowledge of several different Constitution-related categories.

In addition, the Polson High group got an opportunity to meet members of Congress and visit sites of historic and cultural significance in Washington, D.C. The competition may have been the highlight, but for most students the trip itself was an educational and exciting experience.

The "We the People" program is directed by the Center for Civic Education, and it has been extremely successful. Several studies show that students who participate in We the People are substantially better informed about American Politics than those who do not. They are also more likely to register to vote, be more confident in their rights as citizens, and be more tolerant of other's viewpoints.

Let me again congratulate the Polson High group for their hard work. Montana is proud of them.●

J. WESLEY WATKINS III

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it is with a feeling of deep regret that I bring to the attention of the Senate the death of my friend, J. Wesley Watkins III. He died on Monday, June 4, at George Washington University Hospital. He was 65 years old and was a victim of cancer.

Wes and I were classmates at the University of Mississippi. As a matter of fact, we were cheerleaders for the Ole Miss football team in 1956–1957, and I succeeded him as head cheerleader in 1957.

During the 1960's Wes became actively involved in the effort to extend all the benefits of citizenship to African Americans. He was a leader in our State in this cause, and he demonstrated great courage and determination.

He had an engaging personality, a winning smile, and he loved people. It was always a pleasure to be with him. He truly will be missed by his many friends. I'm glad I was one of them.

His hard work to assure equal rights and help make a difference in the lives of others who needed help is described in a newspaper article about his death. I ask that a copy of the obituary that appeared on Wednesday, June 6, in the Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.

The obituary follows:

J. WESLEY WATKINS III, 65, DIES; CIVIL LIBERTIES LAWYER, ACTIVIST
(By Bart Barnes)

J. Wesley Watkins III, 65, a Washington-based lawyer who specialized in civil rights and civil liberties issues in a career that spanned almost 40 years, died of pneumonia June 4 at George Washington University Hospital. He had cancer.

At his death, Mr. Watkins was a senior fellow at the Center for Policy Alternatives and founding director of the Flemming Fellows Leadership Institute, a program that assists and trains state legislators on such issues as family and medical leave, community reinvestment and motor-voter registration.

He was a former director of the American Civil Liberties Union of the National Capital Area, a Washington-based southern regional manager of Common Cause and a management consultant to various nonprofit organizations.

In the late 1960's and the 1970s, he had a private law practice in Greenville, Miss. His cases included winning the right for African American leaders to speak to on-campus gatherings at previously all-white universities; the seating of a biracial Mississippi delegation at the 1968 Democratic National Convention and removal of various barriers and impediments to voting.

Mr. Watkins, a resident of Washington, was born in Greenville and grew up in Inverness, Miss. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy, graduated from the University of Mississippi and served in the Navy at Pearl Harbor from 1957 to 1959. He graduated from the University of Mississippi Law School in 1962. During the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, he was a Justice Department lawyer and tried cases throughout the South.

In 1967, he returned to Greenville as a partner in the law firm of Wynn and Watkins. Until 1975, he was the attorney for the Loyal Democrats, the movement to establish a biracial Democratic Party in a state where black residents had been effectively excluded from the political process for generations. The loyalists were seated at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago as the official Democratic Party of Mississippi. In the years after 1968, Mr. Watkins held negotiations with Mississippi's Old Guard Democrats that led to a unified Democratic Party by the national convention of 1976.

Hodding Carter III, the former editor of Greenville's Delta Democrat Times newspaper and a Mississippi contemporary of Mr. Watkins's, described him as "one of those southerners who loved this place so much that he had to change it. He had to do what he knew was the right and necessary thing in a very hard time. He had to break with so much that was basic to his past." Carter is president of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in Miami.

In 1975, Mr. Watkins returned to Washington and joined the Center for Policy Alternatives and helped found the Flemming Leadership Institute.

There, Linda Tarr-Whelan, the organization's board chairman, called him a "larger-than-life figure with a thick Mississippi accent, a magnetic personality and a gift for telling stories."

He habitually wore cowboy boots and a ten-gallon hat. When chemotherapy treatments for his cancer caused some of his hair to fall out, Mr. Watkins simply shaved his head and started wearing an earring.

In the 1980s, Mr. Watkins was task force director for the Commission on Administrative Review of the U.S. House of Representatives, which also was known as the Obey Commission. He was a former legislative assistant to Rep. Frank E. Smith (D-Miss.).

He Served on the boards of Common Cause, Americans for Democratic Action and Mid-